What is claimed is:

1.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for controlling a hardware device of a computer system, comprising:

a scripting driver for interacting with, through a device driver interface, an application running on the computer system; and

a script engine for executing a driver script for the hardware device, the driver script containing a plurality of programming instructions defining behavior of the hardware device, the programming instructions calling functions of system-provided objects for communicating with and controlling the hardware device,

the scripting driver programmed for receiving, through the device driver interface, a request from the application for a requested operation by the hardware device, and invoking the script engine to execute the driver script, the script engine interpreting the programming instructions in the driver script and invoking functions of the system-provided objects called by the programming instructions to carry out the requested operation.

2.   A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, where in the hardware device is an image-capturing device.

3.   A computer-readable medium as in claim 2, wherein the hardware device is a scanner.

4. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the scripting driver is further programmed to export the system-provided objects.

5. A computer-readable medium as in claim 4, wherein the functions of the objects are callable to perform actions including setting parameters for a data acquisition operation by the hardware device, and initiating the data acquisition operation.

6. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the computer-executable components further includes a regular device driver for a second hardware device, the regular device driver programmed to interact with the application through the device driver interface for receiving requests for operations by the second hardware device and to control the second hardware device to perform the requested operations.

7. A method of controlling a hardware device connected to a computer system to perform operations in response to requests by an application running on the computer system, comprising:

providing a driver script for the hardware device, the driver script containing a plurality of programming instructions defining operational behavior of the hardware device, the programming instructions calling functions of

system-provided objects for communicating with and controlling the hardware device;

receiving, by a scripting driver, a request from the application for a requested operation by the hardware device;

5   invoking, by the scripting driver, a script engine to execute the driver script to perform the requested operation;

interpreting, by the script engine, programming instructions in the driver script pertaining to the requested operation; and

10   invoking, by the script engine, functions of the system-provided objects called by the programming instructions in the driver script pertaining to the requested operation to perform the requested operation.

15   8.   A method as in claim 7, wherein the hardware device is an image-capturing device.

9.   A method as in claim 8, wherein the hardware device is a scanner.

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10.   A method as in claim 7, further including the step of exporting, by the scripting driver, the system-provided objects called by the programming instructions in the driver script.

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11.   A computer readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing steps to control a hardware device

connected to a computer system to perform operations in response to requests by an application running on the computer system, comprising:

receiving a request from the application to perform a

5 requested operation by the hardware device;

accessing a driver script for the hardware device, the driver script containing a plurality of programming instructions defining operational behavior of the hardware device, the programming instructions calling functions of

10 system-provided objects for communicating with and controlling the hardware device;

interpreting programming instructions in the driver script pertaining to the requested operation; and

invoking functions of the system-provided objects called

15 by the programming instructions in the driver script pertaining to the requested operation to perform the requested operation.

12. A computer-readable medium as in claim 11, wherein

20 the hardware device is an image-capturing device.

13. A computer-readable medium as in claim 12, wherein the hardware device is a scanner.

25 14. A computer-readable medium as in claim 11, having further computer-executable instructions to perform the step

of exporting the system-provided objects called by the
programming instructions in the driver script.

15.   A computer system comprising:

a hardware device; and

an operating system having a scripting driver, a
scripting engine, and a driver script for the hardware device,
the driver script containing a plurality of programming
instructions defining operational behavior of the hardware
device, the programming instructions calling functions of
system-provided objects for communicating with and controlling
the hardware device,

the scripting driver programmed for receiving a request
for a requested operation by the hardware device, and invoking
the script engine to execute the driver script, the script
engine programmed for interpreting the programming
instructions in the driver script and invoking functions of
the system-provided objects called by the programming
instructions to carry out the requested operation.

16.   A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the
hardware device is an image-capturing device.

17.   A computer system as in claim 16, wherein the
hardware device is a scanner, and the requested operation is a
scan operation.

18. A computer system as in claim 15, wherein the scripting driver is further programmed to export the system-provided objects called by the programming instructions in the driver script.

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